

Dammeron Valley Fire SSD

Approved Minutes of Public Meeting Held February 4, 2014

Meeting Place: Dammeron Valley Fire Station - Training Room
1261 N Dammeron Valley Drive East, Dammeron Valley, UT 84783

ACB Members Present: Chairman Mack Sorensen
Clerk William King
Treasurer Craig Meyocks
Member at Large Gary Jensen
Member at Large Mac Thomson

ACB Members Absent:

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mack Sorensen at approximately 7:00PM.

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Bill King made a motion "we accept the Agenda as written", Gary Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

A. DVFSSD Monthly Bills

Rocky Mountain Power \$126.93, Baja Broadband \$84.75, Verizon Wireless \$176.70, these are recurring bills and are paid through our banks bill pay option. Then the Spectrum \$95.35, Utah Communication Agency Network \$139.56, St George Ford \$320.72, Dixie State University \$2,078.00.

Craig Meyocks made a motion "that we pay the bills", motion was seconded by Mac Thomson, motion passed unanimously.

B. Bank Balance

The bank balance is approximately \$4885.00 after paying the bills.

C. DVLA Equipment

Bill King advised this item was due to many inquiries as to what equipment is being bought with the budget. Most people recognize the fire trucks are equipment but don't realize the protective gear the fire fighters wear have expiration dates, the breathing apparatus has to be updated periodically, the drugs carried by EMS has expiration dates on it and there are certain drugs that have to be carried at all time. So there are a lot of equipment expenses that are on-going besides the fire trucks. So the equipment that was out of date is in the process of being updated and we're committed to developing a five year plan that will replace dated equipment before the expiration date so we are not faced with an enormous outlay for this equipment in the future.

D. DVFSSD Invoice for Fees

Chairman Sorensen gave a brief history of the SSD, in that it has been the works for the past two years. The biggest benefit of the SSD to residents was the removal of liability of

each resident through the SSD being a subdivision of Washington County. When DVLA had the responsibility of providing fire and emergency services if there was a law suit, DVLA could only get a \$2M liability insurance policy. So any judgment against DVLA for more than \$2M would be satisfied by a lien on every DVLA members property. Now, with the SSD, the fire and emergency services are covered by insurance issued by the State and if a law suit exceeds the face amount of this policy Washington County picks up the balance, so residents no longer have the possibility of a lien on their property to satisfy any law suit that the fire or emergency service could be involved in. The fee target was \$170 per year, and that is what it is. This fee is simply the budget divided by the number of verified properties in the SSD, everyone pays the same. Those who own more than one property will pay more than one fee, the fee is per property. We will be developing a five year plan so we can forecast any increase in equipment and/or operating cost and make residents of the SSD aware of proposed increases or decreases. As discussion comparing mill levy and flat fee was initiated to clarify that the budget would be the same regardless of whether the fees were based on a flat fee or through valuation. Historically DVLA fees were flat fees so this was taken into consideration, and it was determined the flat fee was the most fair as everyone would get a reduction and everyone would get the same service.

4. New Business

None noted.

5. Dammeron Valley Fire Department Report, Chief Majeic Szczerbiak

Since our January meeting, we have signed up a new volunteer, Richard Gustovsen, very experienced guy who use to be a technical rescue guy for the Coast Guard, and we welcome his expertise.

We have finally been able to issue burn permits, the air quality dictates when these permits can be issued and that decision comes out of Salt Lake City.

Fire Department training, just after the last meeting we had the winter fire school, and I have presented the Board a schedule for additional training we will have in 2014.

As far as calls go, we had four EMS calls, last year we had 32 calls during this same period. Three of the four emergencies involved Life Flight helicopter, we had to land the helicopter in the subdivision. We accept a huge liability when we are involved with landing a helicopter in the subdivision, so having the liability on the SSD instead of the residents is a big plus. The average flight time is four minutes compared to the half hour plus in the ambulance, so some of these victims would not make it if they had to go by ambulance.

We had no fires.

We had an equipment grant, we have a person who is researching grants every week. So we are applying for State and Federal Grants which we could not do legally when the fire department was a private entity.

We have Internet access here at the Fire Station, do for future events we have wi-fi available. This also allows us to take advantage of the online courses that are available. We're going to switch our foam system on our Brush Trucks, this is a better foam system and we're preparing for a busy fire season and the foam works much better than other systems for our area. The new system is much more economical and operational wise it

is much better also. We have one estimate and we're are getting several others before we make a final decision on the foam system.

So we are trying to squeeze as much savings into the budget as we can through our grant applications.

A question was asked about the SSD billing the patient for emergency services, the SSD does not bill for services but the transport agencies do. So if you are transported by ambulance or helicopter you will probably receive a bill from the transporting agency. Our EMS personnel 'packages' the patient and another agency will transport you. We cannot force you to accept care, you can refuse, we have you sign some forms and you're done.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. January 7, 2014

Mac Thomson made a motion to "approve the minutes", Craig Meyocks seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

7. Request for Closed Session

None requested.

8. Chair Opens Discussion for Public Comments

Chairman Sorensen expressed how much the Board appreciated those who take the time to come to our meetings and give us input. We need to all work together to solve any problems that may arise, but we need to be made aware of the problem. There is a solution, but we need to know about any concerns any resident has.

A question was asked about splitting the payment for two properties that were billed on one invoice. The SSD invoices residents off the tax roll of Washington County, so if changes need to be made residents should contact the Washington County Auditor, Kim Hafen, and make the necessary corrections so future billings will be correct. As for the current invoices, residents should contact Bill King by calling 435-559-0759 and make needed changes. Several payments have been received with notes changing addresses, so that is another way to notify the SSD of changes.

9. Adjourn

Craig Meyocks made a motion "we adjourn the meeting", Mac Thomson seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.